

Living Into Right Relations – February 2022

Hello,

January was a month that continued to remind us to pay attention to what has happened and is happening with/to Indigenous children. The recent revelation of 93 graves at [Williams Lake](#) and the current [work being done at the Mohawk Institute](#) are reminders that the past lives with us and that the [TRC Calls to Action](#) provide invaluable guidance for the future. The Agreement in Principle signed on Jan 4 by the Federal Government, First Nations Child and Family Caring Society (FNCFCS), and the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is potentially a hopeful step forward. Section 1 below includes some media coverage of this as well as ideas for support related to Indigenous children. Please note especially *Have a Heart Day* which is coming up on Feb 14. This could be a way to remind the Federal Government that we are watching and do not want this to lose momentum, focus or integrity.

Take good care and take in these glorious winter days,

Nancy

(nancydykstra@gmail.com) *note: the PDF version is always attached. I find it easier to read!*

1. The Agreement in Principle on compensation and long-term reform of First Nations child and family services and Jordan's Principle. Here are some articles and ideas for support.

a. News articles and press releases

- i. Jan 4 [Cdn Gov't press release](#)
- ii. Jan 4 [CBC](#) coverage
- iii. Jan 15 [APTN](#) coverage - what comes next?
- iv. Jan 18 [APTN interview with Cindy Blackstock](#)

b. Supportive action

- i. Learn about and support [The First Nations Child and Family Caring Society](#) (FNCFCS)
- ii. Specifically check out their [What You Can Do](#) section
- iii. **Feb 14** FNCFCS [Have a Heart Day](#) 10th year - includes ideas for teachers/families
 - a. [Have a Heart Day ideas for churches: United Church](#)

2. Land Back

- a. [O:se Kenhionhata:tie](#) - read their Facebook posts. Some recent posts relate to:
 - i. [Name change for Camp K - news and discussion](#)


- ii. [Partnership with GRCA - challenges](#)
- b. [1492 Land Back Lane](#) - read their facebook posts
Supportive actions -
 - i. **Friday Lunches for 1492 LandBack Lane - Our next delivery date: Feb. 11.**
Cash donations can be made through [Parkminster United Church](#). Please identify your donation as 1492 LandBack Lane. We had wonderful response in 2021 and have used up a lot of our funds, so cash donations are very welcome. For more info or to lend a hand contact me at nancydykstra@gmail.com.
Thank you!
 - ii. Support their [legal defense fund](#)
- c. **Arrowdale Reclamation** -
 - i. Jan 5 Turtle Island News [City of Brantford installs concrete barrier at former Arrowdale golf course land defenders leave site](#)
 - ii. Jan 13 CBC [Six Nations man in Brantford, Ont., golf course occupation faces charges related to land-claim protest](#)
- d. I try to keep this newsletter local, but also recognize that the Land Back issues are interconnected. If you're interested in [supporting Wet'suwet'en](#) Land defenders here is a site you can look into. Thank you, Adrienne Barret Hofman.

3. Learning at home and events

- a. [Nations Uniting](#) Sharing Circle - To join their events and be part of their mailing list contact Rhonda Johns at nations.uniting@gmail.com.
- b. **Feb 1 - April 22, [Unmasking, Breathing, Moving Forward](#)** Martin Luther University College - WLU Represented in this art exhibit are three young artists affiliated with [Music for the Spirit](#)*: Thomas Anderson, Ashley Cattrysse and Steve Johnson.

* Beginning in 2014 as an initiative of the Indigenous Anglican Church on Six Nations of the Grand River, Music for the Spirit has provided a summer day camp (pre-COVID) and in-person or online after-school programs offering music and visual arts instruction to children and youth aged 9 to 14. Key to its mission are "youth leaders who share their music and visual arts skills, building a community of young people who are resilient and knowledgeable about their cultural identity and ways to express feelings and dreams for the future".

Feb 13 opening event, including jazz music and artist talks, requires [pre-registration](#) Thank you, Beverly McNabb and Mary Thompson.
- c. **Feb 9, 1p.m.** Webinar Series - [Stealing the Earth](#) I just learned about this series. I'm wondering if their earlier discussions are available after the fact. It looks like a good in-depth series about the Doctrine of Discovery. Thank you, Henriette Thompson.
- d. **Feb 9, Feb 23, March 9, 7p.m. Mohawk Institute Virtual tours.** Click the date for a link to tickets: [Feb 9](#) [Feb 23](#) [March 9](#)

- e. **Feb 11-13** Online Retreat: "[The Cost of Colonialism, the Joy of Jubilee](#)" with Steve Heinrichs, Mennonite Church Canada's director of Indigenous-Settler Relations. If dispossession is the fundamental breach of the Indigenous-settler relationship, what biblical resources can address that? Could old memories spur significant reparative action? Thanks for bringing it to our attention, Henriette Thompson.
- f. **Feb 17, 1p.m. EST Indigenous Peoples, Food Safety and Security and Climate Change in Canada** - National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health [Webinar registration here](#) . Thank you, Mary Thompson.
- g. **Feb 18, 7-9p.m.** [The Story of Deskaheh and the Price of Sovereignty](#) Who was Deskaheh? Here's an intro to pique your interest: Chief Deskaheh was the first Haudenosaunee citizen to travel on a Haudenosaunee Passport when, in 1923, he traveled to Geneva to the League of Nations to make the case for better treatment for his people by the Canadian (and US) governments. Want to learn more? Register [here](#) .
- h. **Feb 18, 7p.m. Doctrine of Discovery: Stolen Lands, Strong Hearts** This film and follow-up discussion delves into the devastating effects of this edict including the impact of residential schools and what we need to know about reconciliation. To register contact Steinmann Mennonite Church at 519-634-8311 or office@smchurch.ca. Thank you, Catherine Bowman.
- i. **Feb 26 starting at 9a.m.** Chiefswood Park [Pack Basket Workshop](#)
- j. **Mar 30, 7p.m.** Sanderson Centre, Brantford [The Mush Hole](#) Theatrical Dance performance by Santee Smith - very powerful. Further detail and tickets [here](#).
- k. **Lots of other events online through** [Eventbrite](#)
- l. **In case you missed it....**
 -  **The Creators Game - A Discussion with Author Allan Downey** interesting and engaging stories about the history of Lacrosse and the colonization of the game. Six Nations of the Grand River has a world class Lacrosse team as you likely know.

4. Good Reads, News and Views

a. Doctrine of Discovery resources*:

- i. An extensive collection of [videos and other educational resources](#) about the Doctrine of Discovery from various denominations and organizations.
- ii. Podcast that can be found [here](#).

*From the [Dismantling of the Doctrine of Discovery Coalition](#)